

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 20039

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EINV, GW, IT
SUBJECT: SCHMIDT-ANDREOTTI MEETING

1. SUMMARY: MAIN RESULT OF ANDREOTTI-SCHMIDT MEETING
WAS TO CLEAR THE AIR BETWEEN ITALY AND WEST GERMANY
FOLLOWING SERIES OF RECENT INCIDENTS INCLUDING KAPPLER
AFFAIR AND LUFTHANSA HIJACKING. THE TWO LEADERS MET ALONE
FOR BULK OF TIME, DURING WHICH THEY DISCUSSED DOMESTIC
POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND TERRORISM. IN LARGER GROUP
MEETINGS, IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES
WAS EXPRESSED. END SUMMARY.

2. ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND WEST GERMAN
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT FINALLY HELD THEIR PREVIOUSLY POSTPONED
(BECAUSE OF THE KAPPLER AFFAIR LAST AUGUST) MEETING
ON DECEMBER 1. MEETING WAS HELD, AS ORIGINALLY
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PLANNED, IN VERONA NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF SHORTER
TRAVELLING DISTANCE INVOLVED FOR SCHMIDT BUT ALSO SO
THAT HE COULD AVOID NECESSARY FORMALITIES (E.G., CALLS
ON ITALIAN PRESIDENT AND ON POPE) OF VISIT TO ROME.
THE TWO LEADERS MET ALONE, EXCEPT FOR AN INTERPRETER,
AND THEN HELD AN EXPANDED GROUP MEETING AFTER LUNCH.

3. ACCORDING TO MFA, THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO CLEAR THE AIR BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE WAKE OF THE KAPPLER AFFAIR, OF THE ALLEGED LACK OF ITALIAN COOPERATION AT ROME AIRPORT IN ATTEMPTS TO STOP THE HIJACKED LUFTHANSA AIRCRAFT (WHICH ENDED UP IN MOGADISCIO), AND OF INCIDENTS ON THE PART OF ITALIAN LEFTISTS DIRECTED AGAINST GERMAN INSTALLATIONS AND PROPERTY IN ITALY AFTER THE DEATHS OF STAMMHEIM. BOTH SIDES FELT THE MEETING ESSENTIAL NOW SO THAT SCHMIDT AND ANDREOTTI COULD SEE EACH OTHER AT DEC. 5 EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING WITHOUT ANY LINGERING CLOUDS OVER BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. WHILE MFA OFFICIALS HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN COMPLETE READOUT ON SCHMIDT-ANDREOTTI TETE-A-TETE THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN ITALY WERE ADDRESSED AND THAT SCHMIDT EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF ANDREOTTI'S HANDLING OF SITUATION. THE TWO LEADERS ALSO DISCUSSED ECONOMIC ISSUES INCLUDING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT. BOTH LEADERS EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT TERRORISM IN THEIR COUNTRIES WAS LINKED AND THAT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT TERRORISM SHOULD BE INCREASED.

5. IN EXPANDED AFTERNOON MEETING, ITALIANS SAID THEY HAD NO NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FRG FINANCIAL HELP AT THE MOMENT , AND BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT ITALIANS WERE MEETING REPAYMENT OBLIGATIONS TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FRG. GREATER WEST GERMAN INVESTMENT IN ITALY, ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH, WAS DISCUSSED AND IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD A MEETING (PRESUMABLY A LA BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL) OF WEST GERMAN BUSINESSMEN IN THE SPRING IN ROME TO DISCUSS INCREASED INVESTMENT. AS TO KAPPLER AFFAIR, ANDREOTTI EXPRESSED ITALIAN CONFIDENCE IN GERMAN SENSE OF JUSTICE AND SCHMIDT SAID ITALIANS WOULD NOT BE DISAPPOINTED BY FRG ACTION. (MFA OFFICIAL ADDED THAT KAPPLER IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED ISSUE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. ITALIANS HAVE HAD TRANSLATED AND TURNED OVER TO GERMANS LARGE PILE OF DOCUMENTS FOR POSSIBLE KAPPLER RETRIAL IN WEST GERMANY, ITALIAN EMBASSY IN BONN IS NOW LOOKING FOR GERMAN LAWYER TO REPRESENT ITALIAN INTEREST IN CASE.) BOTH SIDES ALSO DISCUSSED FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES LIKELY TO COME UP AT EC COUNCIL MEETING AND EXPRESSED AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS. GARDNER

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